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DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

21547/0280

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.52)

09/936169

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/SE00/00351

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

23 February 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

9 March 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

SELF-TAPPING IMPLANT

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

BJÖRN, Göran , ENGMAN, Fredrik , JÖRNÉUS, Lars , , , , , , ,

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the Annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

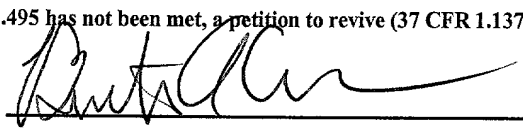
11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter
16. ☒ Other items or information: ISR, IPER

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.53) 09/936169		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/SE00/00351		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 21547/0280	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$860.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)\$690.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).....\$710.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....\$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).....\$100.00				CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$1000	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$	
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total Claims	17- 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$	
Independent Claims	2- 3 =	0	X \$80.00	\$	
Multiple dependent claim(s)(if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$1000	
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable.				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$1000	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$1000	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$1000	
				Amount to be:	
				refunded	\$
				charged	\$

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$1000 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 22-0185 in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 22-0185. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
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 SIGNATURE
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24.852
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :
: :
Göran Björn et al. :
: :
Serial No.: To be assigned : Art Unit: To be assigned
: :
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: To be assigned
: :
For: SELF-TAPPING IMPLANT : Atty Docket: 21547/0280
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS (amended set attached to International Preliminary Examination Report)

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) Implant according to claim 1, characterized in that the conically tapering portion is arranged with materially reduced thread parts with full radius and which are at least two in number.
4. (Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the point angle of the cone-shaped portion is less than 20°.
5. (Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein each relief edge consists of two essentially plane relief surfaces which form an obtuse angle with each other.

6. (Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein a first portion is provided with a double or multiple thread, and a second portion is provided with a single thread or thread numbering different from the thread numbering of the first portion, or vice versa.

Please add the following new claims.

8. (New) Implant according to claim 2, characterized in that the conically tapering portion is arranged with materially reduced thread parts with full radius and which are at least two in number.

9. (New) Implant according to claim 2, wherein the point angle of the cone-shaped portion is less than 20°.

10. (New) Implant according to claim 3, wherein the point angle of the cone-shaped portion is less than 20°.

11. (New) Implant according to claim 2, wherein each relief edge consists of two essentially plane relief surfaces which form an obtuse angle with each other.

12. (New) Implant according to claim 3, wherein each relief edge consists of two essentially plane relief surfaces which form an obtuse angle with each other.

13. (New) Implant according to claim 4, wherein each relief edge consists of two essentially plane relief surfaces which form an obtuse angle with each other.

14. (New) Implant according to claim 2, wherein a first portion is provided with a double or multiple thread, and a second portion is provided with a single thread or thread numbering different from the thread numbering of the first portion, or vice versa.

15. (New) Implant according to claim 3, wherein a first portion is provided with a double or multiple thread, and a second portion is provided with a single thread or thread numbering different from the thread numbering of the first portion, or vice versa.

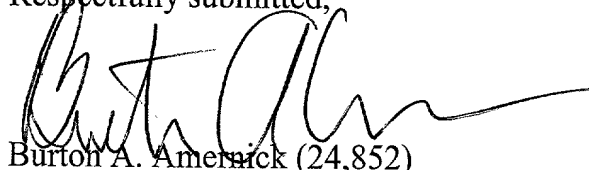
16. (New) Implant according to claim 4, wherein a first portion is provided with a double or multiple thread, and a second portion is provided with a single thread or thread numbering different from the thread numbering of the first portion, or vice versa.

17. (New) Implant according to claim 5, wherein a first portion is provided with a double or multiple thread, and a second portion is provided with a single thread or thread numbering different from the thread numbering of the first portion, or vice versa.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 9-10-01

APPENDIX – MARKED UP VERSION

3. (Amended) Implant according to claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the conically tapering portion is arranged with materially reduced thread parts with full radius and which are at least two in number.

4. (Amended) Implant according to [any of the preceding claims 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the point angle of the cone-shaped portion is less than 20°.

5. (Amended) Implant according to [any of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein each relief edge consists of two essentially plane relief surfaces which form an obtuse angle with each other.

6. (Amended) Implant according to [any of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein a first portion is provided with a double or multiple thread, and a second portion is provided with a single thread or thread numbering different from the thread numbering of the first portion, or vice versa.

09/936169

2/PAT

TITLE

5

Self-tapping implant

TECHNICAL FIELD

10 The present invention relates to a self-tapping
implant for bone, preferably jawbone. The implant
comprises a body with threads arranged thereon, and a
conically tapering portion arranged at its front end.
In addition, there are one or more spaces, here called
15 bone-chip recesses, which accommodate bone material cut
off during tapping and which are formed by removal of
material from the threads and body in question. Each
materially reduced thread has a cutting edge which
extends inwards from the outer edge of the respective
20 remaining part and which cooperates with the
bone/jawbone during tapping.

PRIOR ART

25 Self-tapping dental implants are already well
known. A characteristic of many implant types is that
they have a relatively dense threading. There are also
implants with relatively sparse threading. It is also
known to provide implants with multiple threads, for
30 example double threads, by which means the speed of
screwing can be increased. In principle, the thread
configurations used aim to make it easier to screw the
implants into jawbone or other bone in the human body,
and to provide initial anchoring of the implant in the
35 bone. Reference is made, inter alia, to Swedish Patent
9601913-8, which discloses an implant with a conically
tapering front end and with spaces or bone-chip
recesses provided for bone material that has been cut
off. Reference is also made to EP 0 641 549 which shows

that it is already known per se to use multiple threads on implants.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5

TECHNICAL PROBLEM

There is a general need to provide good cutting characteristics on the implant so that the latter can be fitted without preliminary threading, which means, among other things, that the implant has to be designed with a thread-cutting point which is formed with a special cutting geometry. The invention aims to solve this problem among others.

In connection with the design of the implant, the aim is to avoid using a dense threading, as this entails a low insertion speed. Nor is a sparse threading wanted, as this entails small thread surfaces in contact with the bone tissue and, consequently, poor conditions for successful osseointegration. If the thread is given a deep profile, it is possible to compensate for this, but at the expense of the implant's strength. The use of double threads is not completely free of problems either in this context, since a double thread, at each moment of insertion, must cut away twice as much bone, which means that the double-threaded implant meets considerably greater resistance from the bone. Theoretically, the cutting resistance is approximately twice as great. During insertion, frictional forces also have the effect that the total resistance can be about 50% higher compared to the case of a corresponding implant geometry with a single thread. For this reason, double-threaded implants are advantageously used mainly in soft bone. The use of double-threaded implants in hard bone entails high insertion resistance from the bone. An implant can always be fitted using a thread tap, but a double-threaded design does not then represent any simplification or saving in time. The present invention also solves this problem and discloses a novel approach

in which the implant is provided with excellent cutting characteristics which mean that it can be fitted without preliminary threading in the bone or jawbone in question.

5 In these types of implants, there is a further requirement that the implant must be designed with sufficient strength. This is especially important in hard bone, where the resistance to the screwing-in function can be considerable. The need for considerable
10 or sufficient strength is often in conflict with the need for a suitable cutting geometry or thread design. The invention solves this problem too.

SOLUTION

15 The novel approach disclosed by the invention entails, inter alia, that the thread-cutting point of the implant is designed with a special cutting geometry which in embodiments is combined with features known
20 per se, and these, taken together, afford an especially advantageous threading function for the self-tapping implant.

 The feature which can principally be regarded as characterizing an implant according to the invention
25 is that each cutting edge of a number, preferably all, of the cutting edges of the removed threads have a pointed shape which, in the cross section of the thread in question, essentially follows a line which deviates from a radius through the remaining thread part's front
30 portion or the pointed shape's point. The cutting angle or chip angle formed by the pointed shape is chosen so as to give an effective threading property which is in relation to the threading property of the implant, i.e. ensures sufficient remaining materially-reduced thread
35 and body. The relationship between cutting properties and strength is preferably optimal.

 In a preferred embodiment, the cutting angle or chip angle is about 20° and is chosen preferably within a range of 15-40°. The said refinements can also

include the cutting edge on a first remaining thread part merging via a radius or curved part into a rear edge on a second remaining thread part, which lies before the first thread part in the direction of screwing of the implant. The radius or the curved part is in this case arranged to provide optimum remaining material in the body and remaining thread part or thread parts and, consequently, optimum strength of the implant in question.

10 The conically tapering portion or tip of the implant must be arranged to support at least two thread parts which extend out to the full radial dimension of the thread in question. The point angle of the cone-shaped portion or cone-shaped implant tip is preferably less than about 20°. A thread relief which is to be effected by removed or materially reduced thread parts is preferably arranged on the conically tapering portion or the point in order to reduce or minimize clamping tendencies between the implant and the bone tissue during threading. The bone chip cutting edge is also preferably arranged non-axially. One or more remaining thread parts on one or more threads are provided with material reduction behind, as viewed in the direction of screwing, the full diameter part which can be engaged with the bone or the bone tissue, for the purpose of facilitating the relief function upon threading.

ADVANTAGES

30 By means of what has been proposed above, an excellent screwing function is obtained for implants in dentine or other bone types. The design of the specific cutting edges and the remaining thread part and the connection of this to the body guarantee good strength of the implant, and at the same time a sufficiently large threaded periphery is obtained for the implant. This geometry of the bone-chip recesses, cutting edges and body can be obtained by milling with a so-called

dovetail cutter which has rounded corners. The bone-chip recesses can be given adequate volume, i.e. the volume can be made so great that the detached bone is accommodated without excessive compression, which can give rise to friction between fixture and surrounding bone tissue upon insertion or screwing. The design also means that clamping tendencies between the fixture/implant and the bone tissue can be minimized.

10 DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

A presently proposed embodiment of an implant according to the invention will be described below with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

- 15 Figure 1 shows a side view of the implant,
 Figure 2 shows, in two cross sections B-B and C-C, a thread with reduced material or with material removed, and its remaining thread parts and specific cutting edge arrangement,
20 Figure 3 shows an end view of the implant according to Figure 1, and
 Figure 4 shows the longitudinal section A-A according to Figure 3.

25 DETAILED EMBODIMENT

- Figure 1 shows a side view of an implant which has a cylindrical threaded part and a front, cone-shaped portion with materially reduced threads. Figure
30 2 shows the cross sections B-B and C-C through the materially reduced threads according to Figure 1. According to Figure 2 and the cross section C-C, a thread with material reduction or material removed is shown with its remaining thread parts 1, 2 or 3 which
35 in this case are three in number. Between the thread parts there are spaces 4, 5, 6 which accommodate detached bone tissue. In this illustrative embodiment, the thread parts and the spaces are essentially uniformly distributed about the circumference of the

implant. Another pattern of distribution and another number of spaces are possible. The circumferential direction of the implant is indicated by 7 and the implant axis at right angles to the plane of the figure is indicated by 8.

The thread parts are provided with cutting edges 1a, 2a and 3a which cooperate with or cut into bone tissue when the implant is being threaded into the bone in the circumferential direction 7. A characteristic feature of the cutting function is that the cutting edges are designed with points or parts 1b, 2b, 3b. The thread parts also have parts 1c, 2c and 3c which extend along the full radius R or along the circumferential direction 7 and which define the thread diameter in the bone produced with the thread in question. The rear sides of the thread parts are indicated by 1d, 2d and 3d.

To form a cutting edge with cutting angle (or chip angle) α , the cutting edge extends in relation to the actual radius r at the said angle α which can be chosen at about 20° or within the range of 15-40°. At its inner parts, the cutting edge on a first thread part, for example thread part 3, merges into the rear side, for example the rear side 1d, of an adjoining thread part, for example thread part 1, via a radius-shaped or curved transition part 9 which has a certain length at right angles to the plane of the figure. A radius for the curved part is indicated by r'. One or more of the remaining thread parts can have a relief edge 2e, 3e, behind its circular part 2c and 3c, respectively.

Figure 2 shows an angle β between cutting and rear edges of successive thread parts, as viewed in the direction of rotation 7. In this illustrative embodiment, the angle β must be about 70°, and it can be of the same size or different sizes. A relief angle γ between the circular part 3c and the relief surface 3e is chosen at 5-10°.

In Figure 1, the reduced thread shown in cross section in Figure 1 is indicated by 10. The positions of the spaces 4 and 5 can also be seen, the remaining thread part between these two spaces being indicated by 2. The implant or the fixture has a cylindrical part 11 with non-reduced threads and a front cone-shaped portion 12 with materially reduced threads. The impressions or recesses have been formed by material reduction in the said threads and in the body of the implant. The free end of the implant, which is essentially straight and chosen at right angles in relation to the longitudinal axis of the implant, is indicated by 13. The upper part of the implant is indicated by 14. As can be seen from the figure, the relief edge 2e of the remaining thread part 2 consists of two essentially plane relief surfaces 2e' and 2e'' which form an obtuse angle with each other. This is best seen from the cross section B-B in Figure 2, where respective relief surfaces have been indicated.

In the end view in Figure 3, the surface 13 and the lower edge of the spaces 4 and 5 are shown. A longitudinal section A-A through the longitudinal axis of the implant is shown in Figure 4 below.

In Figure 4, the body of the implant is indicated by 15. The cone-shaped portion (or point) 12 is designed with a point angle δ which in this case is up to about 10° . The bone-chip recesses or spaces 4, 5 and 6 (see also Figure 1) are located in the cone-shaped portion 12 and continue partially into the cylindrical portion. By means of the above, non-axially arranged cutting edges are obtained via the reduced threads overlying one another. A materially reduced thread must have at least one thread part, preferably at least two thread parts, with cutting edges which reach the circumference of the thread in question. On the cone-shape portion 12, the cutting edge in this case has three thread parts 11, 16, 17 which extend to the full radius, for example r in Figure 1. For other

lengths, the number of thread parts can be reduced or increased, but it needs to be at least one.

The implant can be provided with one, two or more thread leads or spirals. The spirals can extend
5 wholly or partly in the vertical direction of the implant, i.e. one part, for example 14, can be provided with a double-thread or multiple-thread arrangement,
and a part, for example 13, can be provided with a
single-thread arrangement or a thread arrangement with
10 different thread number, or vice versa.

The invention is not limited to the embodiment shown above by way of example, but can be modified within the scope of the attached patent claims and the inventive concept.

PCT/SE00/00351

PATENT CLAIMS

- 5 1. Self-tapping implant (11, 12) for bone, preferably jawbone, and comprising a body (15) with threads (11, 16-17) arranged thereon, a conically tapering portion (12) arranged at its front end, and one or more spaces or bone-chip recesses (4, 5,
10 6) which accommodate bone material cut off during tapping and which are formed by removal of material from the threads and body in question, each materially reduced thread (e.g. 11) having a cutting edge (1a, 2a, 3a) which extends inwards
15 from the outer edge of the respective remaining thread part and which cooperates with the bone during tapping, characterized in that each cutting edge of a number, preferably all, of the cutting edges of the materially reduced threads have a
20 pointed shape (1b, 2b, 3b) which, in the cross section of the thread in question, essentially follows a line which deviates from a radius (r) through the remaining thread part's front portion or the pointed shape's point, that the cutting edge
25 (1a, 2a, 3a) on a first remaining thread part (1, 2, 3) merges via a radius (r') or curved part into a rear edge (e.g. 2d) on a second remaining thread part, which is arranged before the first thread part in the direction of screwing (7), for the
30 purpose of providing an effective threading characteristic related to the strength of the implant, that a cutting angle or chip angle (α), formed by the pointed shape (1b, 2b, 3b) is chosen within a range of 15-40° that each thread relief or

relief edge (2e, 3e) effected by the materially reduced thread part is arranged essentially in the conically tapering portion and behind, as viewed in the direction of screwing, each full radius part (2c, 3c) which can be engaged with the bone, for the purpose of facilitating the relief function of threading and that it has double or multiple threads along all or part of its length.

2 Implant according to claim 1, characterized in that the cutting angle or chip angle (α) is about 20°

3. Implant according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the conically tapering portion (12) is arranged with materially reduced thread parts with full radius and which are at least two in number.

4. Implant according to any of the preceding claims 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that the point angle of the cone-shaped portion (12) is less than 20°

5. Implant according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that each relief edge (2, 3e) consists of two essentially plane relief surfaces (2e', 2e'') which form an obtuse angle with each other.

6. Implant according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that a first portion is provided with a double or multiple thread, and a second portion is provided with a single thread or

thread numbering different from the thread numbering of the first portion, or vice versa.

7. Implant (11, 12) for bone, preferably jawbone, and comprising a body (15) with threads (11, 16-17) arranged thereon, a conically tapering portion (12) arranged at its front end, and one or more spaces or bone-chip recesses (4, 5, 6) which accommodate bone material cut off during tapping and which are formed by removal of material from the threads and body in question, each materially reduced thread (e.g. 11) having a cutting edge (1a, 2a, 3a) which extends inwards from the outer edge of the respective remaining thread part and which cooperates with the bone during tapping and in that each cutting edge of a number, preferably all, of the cutting edges of the materially reduced threads have a pointed shape (1b, 2b, 3b) which, in the cross section of the thread in question, essentially follows a line which deviates from a radius (r) through the remaining thread part's front portion or the pointed shape's point, characterized in that the cutting edges (1a, 2a, 3a) in question comprises a straight part extending from the pointed shape of the cutting edge which straight part on a first remaining thread part (1, 2, 3) merges via a radius (r') or curved part into a straight rear edge (e.g. 2d) on a second remaining thread part, which is arranged before the first thread part in the direction of screwing (7), and that the radius (r') or the curved part (10) is arranged to provide optimum remaining material in the body and remaining thread parts and,

consequently, optimum strength of the implant part
in question.

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Fig. 1

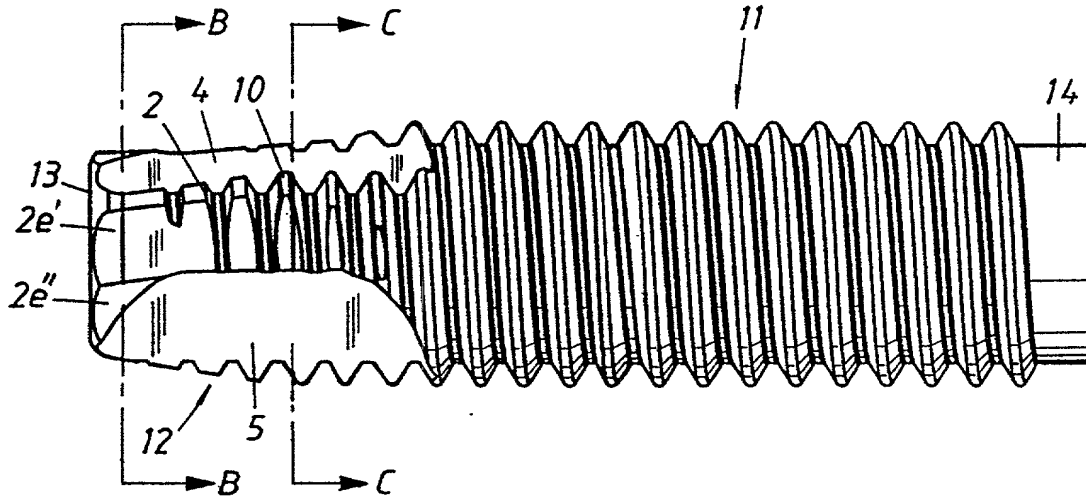
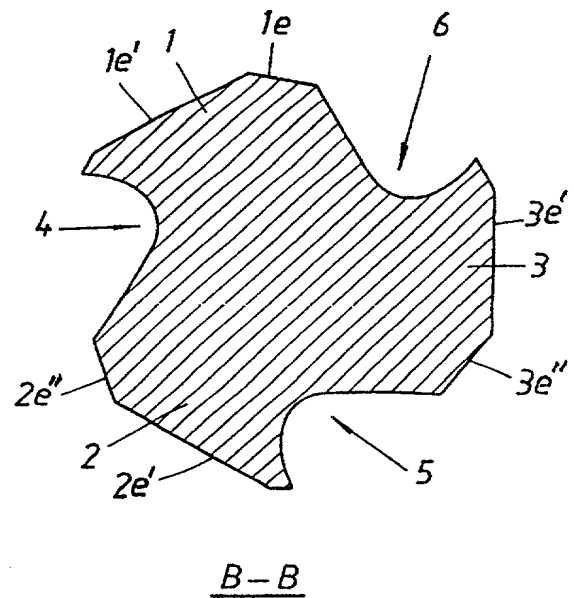
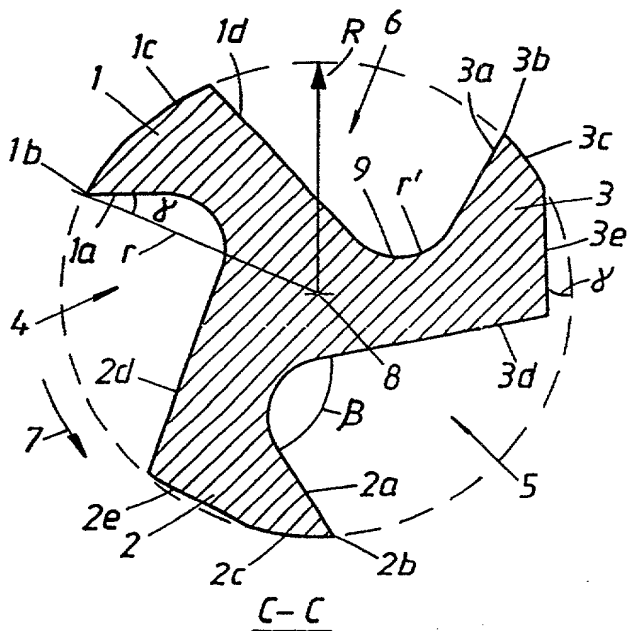


Fig. 2



2 / 2

Fig. 3

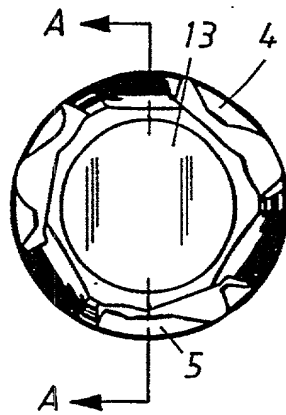
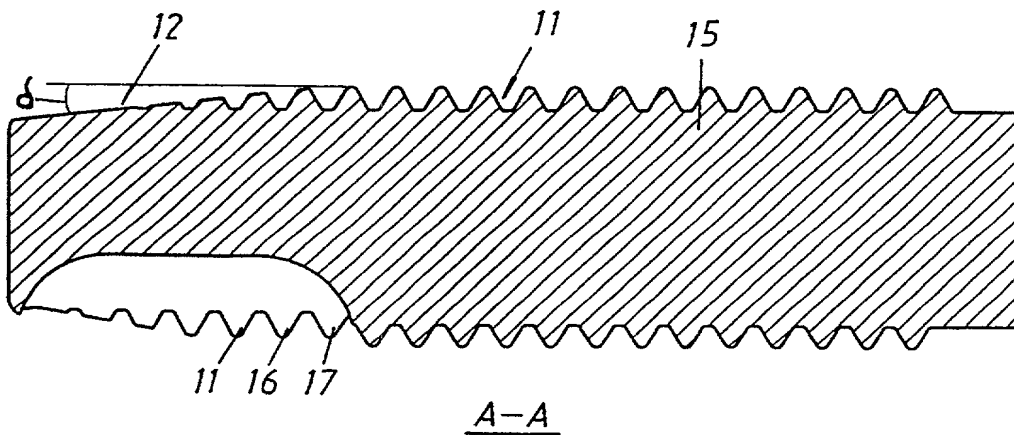


Fig. 4



410105

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

21547/0280

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

SELF-TAPPING IMPLANT

the specification of which: (check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on February 23, 2000, as United States Patent Application Serial No. or PCT International Application Number PCT/SE00/00351, and was amended on April 5, 2001 (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56(a).

Prior Foreign Application(s): I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>9900822-9</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>9/March/1999</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
(Application No.)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
(Application No.)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application No.	Filing Date
_____	_____

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below or 34 U.S.C. § 365(c) of any PCT International Application designating the United States of America listed below, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application or PCT application in the manner provided by 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(U.S. or PCT Application Serial No.)	(U.S. or PCT Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

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